BOOK REVIEWS

The Bionomics of Blister Beetles of the Genus *Meloe* and a Classification of the New World Species. John D. Pinto and Richard B. Selander. 1970 (Feb. 26). Illinois Biological Monographs No. 42. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Chicago and London. 223 pp. $10.00.

For several years Selander and his students at the University of Illinois have been doing excellent systematic and biological work on the beetles of the family Meloidae. In this latest contribution the Tribe Meloini is covered. The Tribe is defined to include the Genus *Meloe* and a Genus, *Spastonyx*, elevated and transferred, primarily on characters of the larvae, from its former position as a Subgenus of *Eupompha* in the Lyttini. Both genera are discussed in the bionomics section, while in the taxonomic section *Meloe* is covered both as adults and larvae and *Spastonyx* only as larvae of *S. memognathoides* (Horn). The title is somewhat misleading in including only *Meloe*.

The genus *Meloe* contains 146 described species, of which the 23 from the New World are treated. Seven of these are described as new and five names are newly placed in synonymy. The taxonomic section includes a direct key to species and indirect keys by way of the three New World subgenera, species groups and subgroups. Each species is treated in standard taxonomic fashion including distribution maps and illustrations of many diagnostic characters. Photographs of heads and pronota display the usual limitations of photographs in taxonomic work but are perhaps a good way to illustrate differences in punctuation and sculpture.

In addition to extensively reviewing the literature (the bibliography contains nearly 200 titles) on the 26 world species for which some biological information is available, the authors include original field and laboratory investigations on six species, mostly from Illinois. Particularly valuable are the extensive sections on sexual behavior and on ontogeny. Courtship was observed in the laboratory for *M. laevis*, *angusticollis*, *dianella* and *impressus*, and good diagrams illustrate the differences in emphasis on different courtship activities in the latter three species. Additional species were observed less extensively. Rearings of *M. dianella* and *M. laevis* were carried through to the adult, and four other species were studied alive through part of the life history. Seasonal and host relations of the four species found at Fox Ridge State Park, Illinois, are compared.

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Butterflies of Trinidad and Tobago. Malcolm Barcant. 1970. 314 pp., 28 plates (16 in color), text figs. Collins, London. £. 275 p. (55s.).

This comprehensive book will be welcomed by all people interested in butterflies, especially in those of the Neotropical region, because of the wealth of natural history information contained in it. A total of 387 species are covered, of which 356 are illustrated, 241 of these in color. This includes all of the true butterflies (Papilionoidea), but omits the enormous and lesser known group of 230 skippers (Hesperioidea). For each species information is given, when known, about: range, description and identification, habits, habitat, abundance and variations. Preliminary sections give general information about butterfly life histories, structures, naming, ecology, and collecting and preserving specimens. A valuable section briefly describes past collecting in Trinidad and gives in detail the best seasons and localities for collecting. Many man-made changes in the environment and their effects on butterflies are discussed. Other points covered in separate parts are abundance and rarity, answers to popular questions, stray species, doubtful or erroneous records, favorite flowers of adults, and a complete checklist of all butterflies and skippers. There is, in fact, scarcely